



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

DATE ISSUED: May 15, 2010

REPORT NO. 10-072

ATTENTION: Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee
Agenda of May 26, 2010

SUBJECT: Informational Report from the Commission on Gang Prevention and
Intervention Regarding its 2009 Workplan

SUMMARY:

THIS IS AN INFORMATION ITEM ONLY. NO ACTION IS REQUIRED ON THE PART OF
THE COMMITTEE OR THE CITY COUNCIL.

BACKGROUND:

The Commission on Gang Prevention and Intervention is tasked to:

1. Develop strategic collaborative efforts between various agencies who work with gang related issues.
2. Make policy recommendations to the Mayor and City Council on issues of gang prevention, intervention, diversion and suppression methods, identify local, state and federal funding sources, and identify best practice efforts.
3. Advocate, formulate, and recommend for adoption proactive gang policies, ordinances and guidelines.

The Commission continues to facilitate numerous collaboratives and coordinate several community initiatives involving local schools and churches in implementing its 2009 Workplan.

Examples include:

- Safe Passage initiative;
- Ten to Succeed Program at 16 city schools;
- facilitating community partnerships with the San Diego Housing Commission and SANDAG on apprenticeships and job training for at risk youth and former gang members; and
- A partnership with the San Diego Police Department and the Parks and Recreation Department on its extended hours program at 3 sites.

The Commission works with community groups and hosts community wide meetings such as the Youth Summit scheduled June 23, 2010 and an upcoming Gang Summit scheduled September 14, 2010. The Commission also embarked on a Listening Tour in December 2009. The Listening Tour information will guide the Commission in determining priorities and policy recommendations for 2011.

The Commission represented the City on two broad collaborative groups during this reporting period: 1) 13 California Cities Gang Prevention Network. This State wide network benefits the City by providing leverage to access funding, and 2) UNITY (Urban Networks to Increase Thriving Youth) Network is a network of 15 cities nationwide supported by the Prevention Institute focused on prevention strategies. Both are more fully described later in the report.

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES & COLLABORATIONS

Safe Passage

Commissioner Eugene Johnson and community volunteers stand every morning at the corners around Horace Mann Middle School to make sure the youth are safe and to monitor behaviors. The School police at Horace Mann have expressed their appreciation of the support. Parent volunteers supervise students at Nestor Elementary when their assistance is necessary. Montgomery Safe Passage continues with Principal Ton leading the efforts, Meetings at all sites are held regularly to identify concerns and assess incidents. San Diego Police, Parks and Recreation and the City Attorney attend on an as needed basis.

Ten to Succeed

The Commission partners with San Diego Unified School District on its Ten to Succeed program, the mentoring/leadership program for 9th grade students. This program has been expanded through 2011 with American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) funds. Commissioners provide mentoring support to over 365 young men and women participating in sixteen district high schools, including Madison, Lincoln, Morse, Crawford, Hoover and San Diego High.

The following Commissioners served as mentors:

Eugene Johnson
Steve Eldred
Chris Yanov
Kevin Henderson
Rosa Ana Lozada

Chief Lansdowne
Chief Jenkins
District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis
Scott Silverman
Pastor Cooper, Chair

Apprenticeships & Job Training

The Commission facilitated meetings regarding apprenticeships and job training with both the Housing Commission and SANDAG.

The Housing Commission's Section 3 program requires recipients of certain HUD funds to provide job training, employment, and contract opportunities for low- or very-low income residents in connection with projects and activities in their neighborhoods. The Housing Commission is working with Overcoming Gangs and Beyond on a pilot project. SANDAG facilitated meetings between Overcoming Gangs and Beyond and Commissioner Villarreal and members of the congressional delegation to discuss apprenticeship programs.

CalGrip

The 2007 California Gang Reduction, Intervention and Prevention Program grant (CalGrip) provided funds for the Parks and Recreation Department to expand hours at three recreation centers on Friday evenings – Southcrest, Montgomery and Mountain View. The Commission serves as the advisory board to the project. The project partners are San Diego Police Department, SANDAG, Parks and Recreation and the community based organization Metro United Ministries (METRO). A Juvenile Service officer is assigned to work with Metro to serve youth who are at risk of gang involvement at the three sites. The positive impact of this effort is shown through the following statistics:

In 2008 San Diego Police Department's Gang Unit investigated 54 gang related crimes in the areas around these three target recreation centers. These included shootings, stabbings, robberies and other assaults.

In 2009 gang related crimes investigated dropped to 34 in the same CalGrip grant area. This represents a decline of approximately 37%. These numbers are from January to December 2009.

Approximately 2,000 youth have accessed the extended hours over the past two years. The Police Department referred 54 to its community based partner, Metro United Ministries. The youth are provided wraparound services which include academic employment assistance.

Youth Summit

On June 23, 2010 the Gang Commission will co-sponsor a Youth Summit called: "Embracing Diversity" with Mental Health Systems at the Hall of Champions. Commissioner Bonnie Dumanis is scheduled as the keynote speaker and will share a short film centered on the hard life choices teens make on a daily basis. The film is titled "4 or 40: The Choice is Yours" and was premiered by her Lincoln High School Youth Advisory Board.

Gang Summit

On September 14, 2010, the Gang Commission will co-sponsor a Gang Summit with the County Office of Education and the University of San Diego's Peace Studies Center. Planning for this event is in process.

Listening Tour 2010

The Commission has partnered with the University of San Diego's Peace Studies Center to gather data from the Listening Tour. Professor Ami Carpenter developed questions and assists with gathering the data utilizing interns from USD and SDSU.

The Listening tour sites to date have been:

- Youth Voice Summit (December 5, 2009)
- Former Gang Members (January 13, 2010)
- Youth Opportunity Employment Students at Coalition of Neighborhood Councils (February 16, 2010)
- Gang Members (February 23, 2010)
- San Diego City Schools' Race/Human Relations Dept. (March 2, 2010)
- Sherman Heights Town Council Meeting (April 7, 2010)
- Reality Changers (April 14, 2010)
- East Mesa Juvenile Detention Facility (April 20, 2010)
- Skyline Recreation Council (April 22, 2010)
- The City of San Diego Youth Council (May 19, 2010)
- East African Community (May 20, 2010)

A sampling of questions used in the Listening Tour is provided below:

General Community:

1. What supports do you feel youth need to empower themselves to make positive choices in life?
2. What interventions within the school would be helpful to guide youth in a more positive direction?

Questions for meetings with former gang members:

1. What was the one thing that pushed you into gangs?
2. Why did existing programs not work for you?

Youth Questions:

1. If you had money to spend for the community, what would you put it towards (i.e. programs)
2. What can support you to be "the best you can be"?

13 California Cities on Gang Prevention

This state-wide network of 13 cities provides members with information about gang prevention programs. The benefit of being part of this network is it provides leverage to access funding. Two years ago the City received \$250,000 in grant funds from the California Gang Reduction Intervention Prevention Program (CalGrip) for extending Recreation hours in three Park and Recreation facilities.

This year network staff reviewed all of the plans and work of the Cities involved in the newtwork. San Diego's Strategic Action Plan and Workplan were reviewed. We were applauded for the work and partnerships of the Commission.


UNITY

The UNITY Network is an initiative of the Prevention Institute. The institute serves as a focal point for primary prevention practice—promoting policies, organizational practices, and collaborative efforts that improve health and quality of life. UNITY is designed to strengthen and support cities in preventing violence before it occurs and help sustain these efforts. The effort is funded by the Center for Disease Control which recently awarded \$16 million to the County of San Diego.


CONCLUSION:

The Commission continues to facilitate initiatives and collaborations as prioritized in its 2009 Workplan. Commissioners have created an environment of collaboration and community focus on the issue of gang involvement. The current Listening Tour has underscores the value of listening to communities and will help determine the future priorities, and will be included in the 2011 Strategic Workplan.

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